

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASES

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Kern County Schools remain open, non-essential gatherings and travel being canceled or postponed to help slow the spread of COVID-19 per new state guidance

March 12, 2020 — Based on new guidance released late yesterday from the Governor's Office, California Department of Public Health and Kern County Department of Public Health regarding COVID-19 (coronavirus), following are the current recommendations that have been made for Kern County school districts and programs operated by the Kern County Superintendent of Schools office.

No School Closures in Kern County

Schools are an essential service, providing education, meals, security and resources for our children and families. Closing schools would have a significant impact on children and families, so school districts are carefully considering the potential impacts of school closures and are developing contingency plans to deliver essential services to students if that is deemed necessary.

Based on guidance released on March 7, 2020 from the California Department of Education and California Department of Public Health, there are NO recommendation for school closures in Kern County at this time. The Kern County Superintendent of Schools and local school districts will remain diligent in working with public health officials to monitor this very fluid situation.

Travel / Field Trips / Gatherings

Based on new state and local guidance, Kern County school districts and programs operated by the Kern County Superintendent of Schools have been advised to immediately:

- Suspend all non-essential out-of-county travel effective immediately through the end of March or until further notice;
- Suspend all out-of-county athletic competitions and other performances through the end of March or until further notice;
- Cancel or postpone all out-of-county and local student field trips through the end of March or until further notice;
- Cancel or postpone any large, district-sponsored gatherings with more than 250 people through the end of March or until further notice;
- Consider options for social distancing efforts within the traditional school setting with special consideration being applied to high-risk individuals (the elderly, people with compromised immune systems, and people with serious chronic medical issues such as heart disease, diabetes and lung disease).